

A QUICK GUIDE TO UNDERSTANDING FIRSTFRUITS OFFERINGS by Gary J. Arnold

The dictionary defines a word according to its usage at the time the dictionary is published. A current dictionary defines firstfruits as the earliest fruit of the season or the first product or result of anything.

It is common practice nowadays to call the first of one's income the firstfruits. But what was the definition of the word firstfruits when the Kings James Version of the Holy Bible was written?

According to Strong's Hebrew Dictionary, the definition of firstfruits is as follows: the *first fruits* of the crop:—first fruit (-ripe [figuratively]), hasty fruit.

In other words, when the Bible speaks of firstfruits offerings, it is speaking only of crops.

Crops are assets, not income. Crops that are sold or traded produce income. Firstfruits offerings were assets, not income from those assets. The assets, or crops, came from God. They are miracles of God, or they come from God's labor.

In Deuteronomy 8:18 we learn that God gave us the ability to produce wealth. In other words, God gave us the ability to work and earn a living. When we work, it is our labor doing the work, not God's. He gave us that ability. Firstfruits offerings always came from God's labor and never from anything that man made or earned from the ability that God gave to us.

The scriptures restrict the definition of firstfruits, when associated with offerings, to only food from crops. Offerings of firstfruits consisted of grains, grapes (and wine made therefrom), olives (and olive oil made therefrom), and from other crops that come from the ground or soil.

Today, many pastors and others teach that firstfruits is somehow either equal to, or a part of the tithe. The scriptures clearly show that firstfruits has nothing to do with the tithe. (See Nehemiah 12:44)

Firstfruits offerings is Old Testament and not appropriate in the Christian Church. Asking for a firstfruits offering from your income is not biblical.

For a more in-depth study of this topic, please go to my website at:
www.FirstFruits101.com.